

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the above amendment and the following remarks.

Double Patenting

Claims 3 and 5 are objected to under 37 CFR 1.75 as being a substantial duplicate of claims 22 and 23, respectively. Applicants have canceled claims 3 and 5. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner's objection on this ground has been rendered moot.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner has rejected claims 12-14 under 35 U.S.C §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, the Examiner indicates that the language in claims 12 and 13 reciting “the contour of the protrusion” and “the surface of the protrusion” respectively, appears to be wrong according to the definition of the word “protrusion.” Applicants have amended claims 12 and 13 to recite, “inner end face” in place of the “protrusion” language, thereby making the claims 12 and 13 definite. Claim 14 has been rejected as being dependent on rejected claim 13. Applicants respectfully submit that in view of the amendments, claims 12-14 are definite. Therefore, Applicants request withdrawal on the Examiner's rejection on this ground.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 2, 9-15, 19, and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated

by Sperry (US 1,714,145). Claims 1, 2, and 24 have been canceled without prejudice. Claim 9 has been amended to depend on allowable independent claim 23. Claim 10, as discussed above, has been amended to incorporate allowable dependent claim 16. Applicants respectfully submit that dependent claims 11-15 and 19, which depend directly or indirectly on independent claim 10, are also allowable. Accordingly, in light of the amendments, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the Examiner's rejection on this ground.

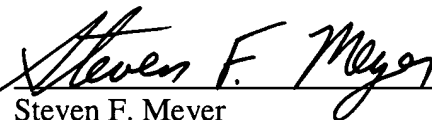
CONCLUSION

It is now believed that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. In view of the remarks and amendments set forth above, an early and favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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APPENDIX A

(Version With Markings To Show Changes Made In The Claims)

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-3, 5, 16, and 24 without prejudice.

Please amend claims 4, 6-10, 12-13, and 17 as follows:

4. (Amended) The piston according to claim [3] 22, wherein the cross section of the annular concave surface is arcuate.

6. (Amended) The piston according to claim [5] 23, wherein the cross section of the convex surface is arcuate.

7. (Twice Amended) The piston according to claim [2] 23, wherein the convex surface is annular about the axis of the piston, wherein the inner end face includes a flat surface that joins to and is located radially inside the annular convex surface.

8. (Amended) The piston according to claim [1] 23, wherein the end wall includes a plurality of ribs, wherein the ribs extend radially on the inner end face and are arranged at equal angular intervals.

9. (Amended) The piston according to claim [1] 23, further comprising a head piece and a body piece that is coupled to the head piece, wherein the head piece includes the end wall, and the body piece includes the remainder of the piston, and wherein, when the head piece and the body piece are separated, the inner end face is exposed.

10. (Twice Amended) A hollow piston used in a compressor, wherein the piston is adapted to be accommodated in a cylinder bore of the compressor, the piston

comprising:

an end wall that receives the pressure of the cylinder bore, the end wall having a substantially flat outer end face that is exposed to the pressure of the cylinder bore and an inner end face that is opposite to the outer end face, wherein a recess is formed in the outer end face; and

a protrusion that is formed on the inner end face to reinforce the strength of the end wall against the pressure applied to the outer end face, wherein the protrusion includes a plurality of ribs.

12. (Amended) The piston according to claim 10, wherein the contour of the [protrusion] inner end face, from the radially outside portion toward the radially inside portion, first approaches the outer end face and then departs from the outer end face.

13. (Amended) The piston according to claim 12, wherein the [surface of the protrusion] inner end face includes an annular concave surface, which is located about the axis of the piston, and a convex surface, wherein the convex surface is located radially inside and is joined to the annular concave surface.

17. (Amended) The piston according to claim [16] 10, wherein the ribs extend radially.